sult of delay in the processing of power projects for which funds have been tied up; and

(d) What is the present position with regard to these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) No proposal is pending in the Central Electricity Authority for setting up of hydro and thermal power projects for which funds have been tied up.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Effect of counter guarantees of growth rate

1183. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that if all fast-track power projects are cleared with counter guarantees similar to the one given to Enron's Dabhol project it may cost the Union Government an amount of $ 10 Billion a year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even with an optimistic growth rate of 7 per cent per year, this will amount to more than three per cent of the country's gross domestic product:

(c) whether it would disrupt our growth process for years to come and

(d) if so, in what manner Government propose to avert such a predictment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Linkage of NTPC power projects with Satellite communication system

1184. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some gas-based power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation have been linked with satellite communication system;

(b) if so, the names of such projects indicating the location, State and Territory-wise;

(c) whether such linking with satellite communication system will provide some benefit to the people;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government propose to link some more such projects in future; and

(f) if so, the names of such projects, State and Territory-wise and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The following gas power projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been linked with Headquarters at New Delhi through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT):

1. Auraiya District Etawah, Uttar Pradesh.

2. Anta, District Baran, Rajasthan.

3. Kawas, P.O. Aditya Nagar, Gujarat.

4. Jhanor-Gandhar, District Bharuch, Gujarat;

(c) and (d) Links have been established for communication between NTPC projects and its headquarters for more efficient working of the power projects. Facility has been established principally for NTPC's dedicated use for its business requirements. The network is an NTPC dedicated network and there is no connection with Department of Telecommunication's Public Switched Telephone Network.

Therefore, it can only be used as a dedicated system.

(e) and (f) Kayamkulam Power project located in Kerala is also planned to be linked by NTPC through similar VSAT station.

Enron Power Projects

1185. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is strong opposition to the Enron Power Proects from experts, economists and public a like on all its aspects;

(b) whether Government would publish the World Bank report on the subject, describing the project as "technically and financially unsound";

(c) whether many questions have arisen over the construction and alignment on Oman-India Gas pipeline as reported in the Hindu, dated 20th January, 1995 and the Pioneer, dated 19th January, 1995; and

(d) the reasons for Government going out of its way to approve this very dubious project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) Some public interest Writ Petitions had been filed in the Bombay and Delhi High Courts opposing the setting up of Dabhol Power Project by M|s ENRON in Maharashtra on the grounds, inter-alia, of global tendering not being resorted to, negotiations not being transparent, projects size not being justified, high tariff and the adverse report of the World Bank etc. The Hon'ble High Court, after detailed hearing of all concerned parties on all these issues, dismissed all the Writ Petitions. The said World Bank report had also been placed before the High Court during the hearing. The project has received clearance from the Central Electricity Authority which had also examined the viability of the project from all relevant angles.

(c) and (d) The Oman India Gas Pipeline projects is being examined in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Joint Sampling of Coal

1186. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2029 and Unstarred Question 2127 given in the Raj Sabha on 9th August and 20th December, 1994 respectively and state:

(a) the final outcome of the examination of the issue regarding joint sampling at loading end as decided by Coal India;

(b) whether the Prime Minister's intervention has been sought in view of the stand of the Ministry of Power that joint sampling at power station end is necessary; and

(c) if not, in what manner his Ministry propose to sort out this issue which is unresolved for more than a year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Power has not sought the intervention of Prime Minister on the issue of sampling of coal supplied to thermal power stations. It has, however, been decided by Government that Ministry of Coal would place the matter before the Cabinet for a decision.